The Tribune's telegraphic news than that of any Philadelphia or field. Those papers go to press at midnight; The Tribune receives news up to 3 a. m. and sometimes later. All the news in The Tribune while it is new.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOPPICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

## TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 25, 1898.

It may interest our readers to know that every line of news printed in The Tribune with reference to the Maine disaster is supplied by the Associated Press, the most careful and conservative news agency now in existence. Nothing can be more authoritative or better worthy of the public's confi-

#### The Fiurry on 'Change.

Since the explosion on board the Maine not a day has elapsed which has not witnessed a flurry in the stock market. There was one vesterday rather more exciting than usual. One substantial eastern stock in a few hours dropped a mere fraction less than 6 points. Another stock-that of a prosperous western railroad-dropped 5 points. The average fall of all the toward the end of the day some of this lost ground was recovered.

Intelligent persons readily compre hend that this speculative fluctuation in securities is wholly artificial. Nothing has happened in the past few days to impair the earning capacity of a single legitimate enterprise. Nothing with such an effect is likely to happen. Even should a war with Spain come it would not take from a single American railroad a single passenger or deprive that road of a single pound of freight: it would not make the difference of an ounce in the output of any mill in the country save possibly the powder mill; it would not restrict by so much as a single pound the demand for anthracite coal or the need or any of the staple products of American industry. There would therefore be no lasting foundation for depreciation in the securities of any well-managed institution, railroad, mill, shop or mine. The man who holds investments in legitimate industries and holds them honestly and honorably, not as a gambler, would sustain no appreciable risk whatever from a war with Spain or from the scare of a possible war, The only person hurt by these so-called panics in the stock markets who is entitled in the least degree to the sympathy of honest men and women is the timid owner, especially the widow or son who does his buying at such times.

Too much deference has been paid by the American people in the past to the sensibilities of the men who gamble in securities. They are not as a rule the kind of men who make industrial success. They are more often the wreckers of industry. When they buy a property their aim usually is to so manipulate its bookkeeping that they can sell it at a profit, even though the real value remains unchanged. This kind of bunco game is regarded by many as essentially shrewd and acute but it is just as essentially dishonest. As a class it is fair to say that speculators in securities are the worst enemies of American society since they undermine the old-fashioned traditions of business honesty and fair dealing, and reduce business thrift and industry to the dimensions of tributaries to immoral speculation.

General Harrison urges all the people to stand by the president. He knows the value of such support because he has been there himself.

#### The Preponderance of Probability. Until there is positive proof to the con trary the chances are today as they have been from the first, ten or more to one,

that the disaster arose from accident within the ship .- New York Sun. For the sake of Spain we should like

to believe this. But we cannot. The preponderance of probability, it seems to us, is ten or more to one on the side of design. Let us give our reasons for thinking so.

Ships similar in construction to the Maine and carrying similar supplies are affoat in different parts of the world to the number of several hundred. They have been affoat for years. Their bunkers carry coal placed as the Maine's coal was placed and quite as liable as the Maine's coal was to spontaneous combustion. Their boilers, too, are fully as liable to explode as the Maine's boilers were. Their crews have been under no better discipline than the Maine's crew was. Indeed it is well established that the discipline on board American men-o'-war even in time of perfect tranquility is unsurpassed. With reference to the Maine the evidence is complete that during the time of her stay in Havana harbor prior to her demolition the discipline preserved aboard her by that cool, astute and intrepid officer, Captain Charles D. Sigsbee, was exceptionally strict. The conjecture that the Maine alone of all the warships affoat should have been singled out by fate for destruction by accident would impose a severe strain upon the doctrine of probability even if there were no further factors in the

problem to be taken into account. What are these additional factors? Space does not permit the enumeration of all of them, but we invite attention to the points which follow:

(1.) The Maine was an unwelcome visitor in Havana harbor. The Spanish officials protested against her coming. and only eased their chagrin by ordering a Spanish warship to pay a wholly unnecessary return visit to New York

(2.) After the Maine had dropped anchor opposite Morro castle those of her cress who went ashare were taunt | means of redress fall. No sensible

ed by the rabble and it is pretty clearly established that some of them were warned to expect trouble.

(3.) The Spanish character aturally treacherous and cruel. After it had shown itself in the brutalitiesis from three to five hours fresher of Weylerism the assumption becomes not unreasonable that it would be wholly capable of exploding a mine New York paper circulated in its | under a hated American ship. The fact that the Maine blew up in the nighttime, after most of her crew had gone to sleep, diminishes the probability of internal accident and strengthens the presumption of Spanish treachery.

(4.) The tenor of the unofficial evilence strongly points to design, and the extraordinary steps which our government is now taking to get ready for war flatly contradicts the diplomatic assurances of our leading officials that they anticipate no trouble and think the ship was accidentally destroyed.

Many men have been hanged in this ountry on circumstantial evidence less serious than that which now points to the guilt of some person or persons among the Spanish residents of Havana Of course the American 1 cople will await the official verdict, because they are an intelligent and a patient people; and they will abide by that verdict, because they know the men who are conducting the inquiry at Havana are men who can be trusted. At the same time they are entitled in the interval pending the delivery of that verdict to think the matter ever for themselves.

Announcement is made that the advocates of Hawaiian annexation, recognizing the improbability during the Cuban excitement of securing a twothirds vote in the senate in favor of listed stocks was 2 points, although ratification, will soon press a joint resolution, which needs only a majority vote to become effective. Under the circumstances this is probably wise, inismuch as the question of annexation is too important to remain longer undecided. But it is a shame that there should not be in the senate of the nited States a sufficient number of mighty ship before the hawsers are far-seeing and patriotic men to give validity to the ratification of a treaty conferring such lasting benefit and advantage on the American people.

#### Peace vs. War.

The idea of the gentlemen who aschurch on Wednesday evening in response to a call deprecating war talk appears to be that the United States should not resent indignity or insult from a foreign power but if attacked should obey the Biblical injunction to ias some believers in different parts of the country. In Philadelphia on Tuesday in the rooms of the Pennsylvania. Peace society and Universal Peace the sake of interests vastly more impor-Union a similar meeting was held at which some interesting remarks were impulse is irresistible, then let him bite ed in the Public Ledger:

Judge Ashman delivered an address, in

the orphan, who for one reason or another lets go of a good security at an artificially depressed price and to that extent is robbed by the cooler perrates were eminently practical. They must recognize existing evils, but in advocating peace among nations they were advocating the only sensible policy. Suppose it be true, he said, that the most dastardly of all crimes had been committed in the case of the Maine, and the course of Spain in the Netherlands showed of what she was capable, and suppose her officials had blown up the battle ship. Then there would be no pos-sible doubt that we would be justified in saving that the Spanish government, owed something to us, to the families of the murdered men and to civilization and manity. But supposing she should repudiate the obligation to make amends. Peace advocates do not advise that other ships and sailors shall be rent into the perils of action to add other murder to that already done. If Spain should under such circumstances reject the ad-judication of an international tribunal of arbitration, she should then be treated s an outcast and heathen, her citizens and representatives made to leave our shores, and no commerce or communication allowed with her. "How long." asked Judge Ashman, "do we think Spain could stand the contempt and less of intercourse with Christian nations?

> At this meeting, upon motion of Alfred H. Love, president of the union. the following resolutions were adopt-

Resolved, That at a time of distracting umors of war and of unprecedented preparations in case of war, not only in our own country, but throughout the world, we are more than ever grounded in our faith that our peace principles are right and competent to adjust any and ill difficulties that exist.

That the peace principles comprehend ustice, equal rights, freedom, charity, a world-wide philanthropy, wise and im-partial arbitration and a dependence upon God; that they are for economy, commercial prosperity, statesmanship, numanity and the happiness of all man-

That we deprecate the making of war newspapers, by warlike rumors, exing and examperating speeches, by racial animosities, by acrimonious criti-cism and a want of calmness, patience and that spirit of "charity for all and malice towards none," and supplement-I by the words, never more opportune,

Let us have peace."

That we appeal to the senate of the United States not to reject the wise cutting down of the appropriation bill for coast defenses and fortifications as it came from the house of representatives.

Neither the sincerity nor the courage of these men is open to question. They are not cowards. They show this by daring to confront an almost irresistible public sentiment with opinions subjecting them to ridicule and contempt. And it is further to be said for them that if their country should call them to go to the front in its defense they would go as they went in '61 and once there they would fight like heroes. So much needs to be understood in the name of fair

play. But at this point opinion may honestly divide. The resolution deprecating the expenditure of money on coast fortifications subjects to the charge of inconsistency every one of its advocates who carries life or fire insurance or who locks his valuables in a safe at night and keeps his outer door bolted. Coast defense is a form of national insurance and strictly that. It is to the nation what firemen and policemen are to the cities. To cripple it is to take rash risks. To strengthen it is to make for the safest kind of peace, the peace resting on confidence.

As to the point whether war is ever justifiable we think it is when other

man, however, wants war until every other recourse proves inadequate to sustain justice and enforce the right.

Captain Eulate of the Vizcaya (pronounced, by the way, as if spelled Veeth-ky-yah) is evidently a much better diplomat than Senor Dupuy de Lome. To a group of reporters who visited him on Wednesday he said that what he had most admired since reaching New York harbor was the New York women. "They are beautihe added, "and they are brilliant. You evidently have the most lovely women in the world." If Captain Eulate wants positive proof of this he should by all means come to Scranton.

Archbishop Ireland declares that the Maine was blown up by accident. "I say this advisedly," he adds. If the archbishop has such important knowledge up his sleeve now is a good time to spread it broadcast.

## Some of the Best Advice Ever Given.

OBODY doubts the patriotism of congress. It represents the patriotism of the American people. This remark applies to every senaator of the eighty-nine senators, and to every representative of the eighteen score members of the house. When the time comes for the voice of the American neonle to be heard through its congress. the utterance will make history. That time may be a week off, a fortnight off, or a month off; no senator or congress man knows. The thing that is certain is that the occasion has not yet arrived. Meanwhile, any expenditure of time or vocal energy in the declaration of sentiments or intentions which the country takes for granted and which serve no practical purpose except to make an individual record is a waste of time and waste of energy. It is like the masning of the water by the propellers of a

Just at present the responsibility and the burden of work are upon the executive. The country trusts President Mc-Kinley and his advisers. No senator or representative who is not a fool believes that Mr. McKinley is the man to arroembled at All Souls' Universalist gate to himself the functions of the coordinate branches of the government, or to usurp in any respect or in any degree the power that belongs to the legislature Congress can trust the president, too Therefore, when the impulse comes to any senator or representative to take the 'turn the other cheek also." This idea present state of affairs as a text for patriotic eloquence which will merely churn the water without putting the ship ahead, let him control it if he can, for tant than any words he can say. If the made. We quote from the report print- his lips hard and hasten out of the senate chamber or the hall of representatives, as the case may be. Let him go which he said that in the presence of the preparations for possible war it may seem to those who do not reason wisely silence at the flag which floats over his alike to senators and congressmen and to all other American citizens.

> Talk by and by. Just now go out and gaze at the most beautiful flag in the world.

## WHAT AN ADMIRAL SAYS.

Bridgeport, Conn., Dispatch in the Sun. Rear Admiral Bancroft Gherardi, retired, said to a reporter today: "If the disaster to the Maine was caused by an accident, well and good, but if it was an act of treachery, and the immediate cause of the disaster was a torpedo or a mine, God help Spain,'

"In the event of war being declared, is our navy in such shape as to meet the Spanish navy with an degree of confidence. the admiral was asked. There was a defiant ring in the admir-

have the cleanest navy in Not only the cleanest, but we world. have the best fighting blood of any navy in the world. The boys would ask for only twenty-four hours with the Spanish

## THE NAVY IS ALL RIGHT.

From the New York Sun We welcome the recruits to the navy, now pouring in enthusiastically, and we applaud their common sense in refusing to be checked in their patriotic purpose by the croaking of some very foolishly wise critics of our warships. The American navy is all right. Its heart is as oaken and its Heaven-given confidence in itself is as high as they were before the rattle of the steam which stilled —the yeo-heave-ho, and the heave-

away, and the sighing seaman's

## GIVE THESE MEN A CHANCE.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. The business philosophy of a good bankruptcy law lies in the fact that it increases credit and extends the buying capacity of traders without cash capital, A well drawn bankruptcy law facilitates the collection of debts, and insures ven-ders to a great extent against the appropriation of debtors' estates by preferred creditors whom debtors desire to favor. It is now an ordinary incident of busiss experience to find the assets of debtors levied upon under suddenly con-fessed judgments falling due at once, which absorb the property and leave un-secured creditors in the lurch, though their claims may be quite as meritorious as those of the favored creditor. This and other evils of the present method of

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disposing of insolvent estates would be sensibly mitigated under a good bank-ruptcy law of uniform operation in all the states. So far from the greater protection given to creditors being an op-pression to debtors, it would aid them, for the reason that vendors and money lenders would feel greater security in giving credit. During the years of business depression from which we are emerging

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We take pleasure in call-

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this week to our magnificent

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Just received, which for com-

importations consist of al-

most every new weave and in

a full line of the choicest

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tion.

thousands of worthy men have been sent into hopeless insolvency, unless they can be restored to business life by a discharge from their indebtedness by the order of a bankruptcy court. Many of these persons could thus revive their fortunes, and some of them would pay their cancelled obligations. At all events Spring cancelled obligations. At all events, nothing is gained by depriving these men of opportunities to enter business free from the pursuit of creditors. Some debtors were the victims of circumstances which they could not control.

## Lewis, Reilly & Davies.

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## FURNITURC Fine Black Silk and

Such a choice stock to select from cannot be found elsewhere in this part of the state. And when you consider the moderate prices at which the goods are marked is a further claim on the attention and consideration of

#### **GIFT SUGGESTIONS.**

FANCY TABLES, CHEVAL GLASSES MUSIC CABINETS, CURIO CABINETS. BOOK CASES, FANCY BASKETS,

EASY CHAIRS. GILT CHAIRS. ROCKERS. SHAVING STANDS. PEDESTALS, TABOURETTES.

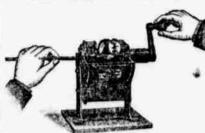
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SIX DAYS' TRIAL THESE TOOLS ARE ALL HIGH. At SIIk COUNTER GRADE AND EVERY TOOL WAR-RANTED.



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YOURS for a price saved in lead and the me wasted in old fashloned chopping.

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## BAZAAR.

## Our Great Friday Sales

Thousands await these sales with intense expectancy, Their brightest anticipations shall be realized in the following bargains which we offer for today:

## At Gent's Furnishing Counter

Japanese Silk String Ties for Ladies' and Gents', 10 cents each, or 3 for 25 cents.

Satin String Ties in plain colors, also Heavy Silk Ties in plaids and fancies, the 25 cent kind at 12 cents. Four-in-hand Silk Scarfs, the 50c kind at 25 cents.

Men's All Wool Scarlet Hose, the 25 cent kind, 15 cents or 2 pairs for 25 cents.

Special White Shirts with Colored Bosoms, laundered, only 39 White Shirts with Colored Bosoms, link cuffs to match. The

Celebrated Mascot Brand. 75 cent kind at 48 cents.

Laundered Cambric Shirts with 2 detachable collars, the 75 cent kind at 48 cents. You will find all of our Shirts to be well made, perfect fitting

and generous in size. We handle no sweat-shop garments. We always urge comparison,

#### At Ribbon Counter

Number 50 Ribbons in all of the new checks and stripes at 12 cents per yard.

Sofa Cushion Tops of Denim at 15 cents. Figured Tapestry Cushion Tops at 25 cents. 1 Hemstitched Stamped Tray Cloths at 25 cents.

## At Domestic Counter, Main Floor

White checked Nainsooks from 4 to 10 cents per yard. Klondike Ready-made Pillow Cases, Handkerchief border

36x45, only 9 cents. Good Ready-made, Hemstitched Pillow Cases, 36x45, only 11 Ready-made Sheets proportionately low in price.

Bleached Table Damask, 54 inches wide, 25 cents per yard. Cream Table Linen, 62 inches wide, 30 cents per yard. Fearless Bleached Muslin, 1 yard wide, one of the best makes, 5 cents per yard.

## HAVE ANYTHING YOU CAN THINK AT DIESS GOODS COUNTER

cents per yard upwards.

A lot of Double-fold Novelties at 9 cents per yard. Silk and Wool Mixed 36-inch Novelties at 18 cents per yard. 40-inch Monatone Suitings at 21 cents per yard. 200 pieces of the latest Spring Dress Goods, ranging from 39

10 different combinations of Changeable Silks at 25 cents per

New Plaid Taffeta Silks suitable for Waists and Dresses, 48 cents per yard.

## On Second Floor Muslin Underwear Department

100 dozen Ladies' Aprons, the 25 cents kind at 19 cents. 100 dozen Ladies' White Aprons, the 40 cent kind, at 25 cents. 25 dozen Fine Embroidered Aprons, the \$1.00 kind, at 49 cents.

## and of all sizes, including Buckwheat and Drapery Department

Another new line of Agents' Samples of Tapestries, suitable for chair and cushion tops, for 23 cents each and upward. White Lace effect Curtain Etamines, worth 15 cents, at 8 cents

Novelty Net and Muslin Ruffled Curtains from 98 cents a pair, upwards. (See window.)

## Closing out a lot of White Enamel Gilt Easels at 25 cents each.

## In Basement

All of the best Calicoes, lights and darks, 4 cents per yard. 100 pieces of Striped Outing Flannels, 4 cents per yard, 100 pieces Union Linen Twilled Crash Towelling 5 cents per

New styles of Percales, 1 yard wide, 5 cents per yard. The finest Zephyr Ginghams and Seersuckers, 6 cents per yard.

## WALL PAPER.

We are recognized as the pioneers of low prices for Wall Paper in this city. It is a reputation that will always be sustained by carrying the largest stock and greatest variety.

We will sell you Wall Paper -- 6 double rolls for 25c., as good as can be bought elsewhere at double the price, and all of the better grades in the same proportion.